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news release

UD THEATRE PERFORMS CLASSICAL FARCE

DAYTON, Ohio, January 31, 1980 ---- Human behavior remains as hilarious today as it was 2403 years ago when Aristophanes wrote his satirical comedy The Clouds to be presented by the University of Dayton Theatre Division on February 7, 8, and 9. Curtain time each evening is 8 p.m. in Boll Theatre. Tickets can be reserved by calling the box office weekdays between 1 and 5 p.m. at 229-2545, or bought at the door the nights of performance. General admission is \$3, and \$1.50 for students.

In burlesque fashion, The Clouds presents man larger (and smaller) than life. The curtain rises on the city of Athens, where a misplaced country bumpkin, Strepsiades, finds himself the victim of his own corruption. Battling the curse of an expensive marriage that is "blessed" with Pheidippides, his playboy son, Strepsiades finally hears a clamor of hope. At the nearby "Thinkery," Socrates is teaching a course in The Technique of Winning Lawsuits. If Strepsiades can master one of the two logics taught there, he should be able to swindle his way out of his past debts. Strepsiades cannot grasp either the Moral Logic of Philosophy or the Immoral Logic of Sophistry, and so is replaced at the Thinkery by his son, who manages to master the Immoral Logic. That causes Strepsiades to reject this new education by burning down the "Thinkery" and all its inhabitants.

Says director Father Robert Bouffier, "The farce provides the playwright with a great sword to pierce the balloons he is dealing with." The 'balloon' in The Clouds is false education.

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According to Bouffier, timing is essential to the success of this production. The cast is playing up the "schtick," the slap-stick comedy which is very visual and physical.

The female Chorus of Clouds, as the chorus traditionally does in Greek theatre, comments on the action of the play. But being "a convention of theatre that is removed from us," director Bouffier has "revised" the role of the Chorus of Clouds; while it continues to serve as commentator, its members add humor by portraying the stereotypical role of "dumb blonde," Hollywood showgirls.